

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy:

Opportunities to expand access to reproductive health care services and information through collaboration in Afghanistan

BACKGROUND

MSI Reproductive Choices (MSI) is a global, non-governmental organization committed to promoting and protecting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), with a focus on expanding access to contraception, providing services to millions of the world's poorest and most vulnerable individuals. We uphold the fundamental right of women and couples to decide freely, and without coercion, the number and spacing of their children. By 2030, we want to see a world where no woman or girl has to resort to an unsafe abortion and where all demand for contraception is met.

MSI Reproductive Choices Afghanistan (MSIA) was established in 2002 as a branch of MSI Reproductive Choices (MSI), a global, non-profit and non-governmental organisation committed to improving the health and wellbeing of the women and girls of Afghanistan so that they can in turn build strong and healthy families.

As the main women's health service provider in Afghanistan, MSIA is one of the few organisations able to provide up-to date information on the in-country SRH situation to donors and other stakeholders and therefore has an unrivalled ability to drive learning and continual improvement to overcome challenges in the sector. This is essential to effectively deliver services to the hardest-to-reach and to identify opportunities for expanding access to reproductive health for people in Afghanistan.

As evidence-based decision making and adaptive programming is at the heart of MSI's programmes, MSIA will engage a consultant to conduct a study, gather evidence, and develop actionable learnings that will be used to help design MSIA's programme going forward, enhancing MSIA's programme delivery and ensuring that no one is left behind.

As part of this desk-based study, the consultant will work with MSIA and relevant stakeholders to explore:

- Challenges in delivering SRH information and services in Afghanistan and best practices of MSIA and partners (including those working in adjacent sectors) to overcome these

This will include:

- 1) What best practises from other relevant humanitarian actors working in Afghanistan could be adapted by MSIA and implemented to widen access to SRH services and information
- 2) How to better integrate access to SRH information and services into adjacent humanitarian sectors *[we are expecting that there will be more publicly available material on what actors operating in adjacent sectors are doing, and bring this together to see where there are opportunities for us to piggyback/ learn from them]*
- 3) Recommendations for future programming to help expand access to quality reproductive health care in Afghanistan, with a focus on reaching the most underserved.

As the research will be broader than just access to high-quality and comprehensive family planning, we intend for research findings to be shared with MSIA's donors, partners, technical working groups, and other stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the study is to pull together best practices in delivering SRH information and services to our target group (women and girls of reproductive age, particularly rural poor) in Afghanistan, drawing on MSIA's activities as well as other relevant NGOs/ humanitarian partners operating in Afghanistan.

TASKS

Conduct desk-based research working closely with MSIA focal point to capture main challenges in delivering SRH information and services to our target group in Afghanistan and successful actions MSIA has undertaken to overcome these.

- Develop protocol for desk-review and interviews including methodology, sample selection, data collection tools and analysis plan. The approach should be such that ethics approval will not be required.
- Conduct interviews with pre-agreed MSIA team members to determine main challenges and strategies MSIA deploy to deliver SRH services and information
- Undertake literature review (published and grey literature)
- Map key adjacent sector humanitarian/ NGO service delivery partners who also provide services to the relevant target groups and identify interview candidates ((5-10) to document experiences and best practices
- Conduct desk-based research and interviews with those partners to capture learnings and relevant best practices that may shape our programme implementations, and highlight opportunities for collaboration/ integration of services and information sharing
- Synthesize findings into a report with actionable recommendations.
- Support the dissemination of findings to internal and external stakeholders.

OUTPUTS

- Detailed workplan and timeline of activities
- Protocol or study method outline
- Conduct literature review (published and grey literature)
- Partner Mapping – details of organisations working in complementary adjacent sectors.
- Detail of desk research i.e evidence table that summarizes relevant publically available material findings
- List of proposed stakeholders to interview (to be signed off before proceeding).
- Transcript/ notes from interviews
- Final report with a set of recommendations for the programme based on the findings highlighting best practices and opportunities for collaboration and linking it to the challenges identified. (Report should be in English and of no more than 25 pages plus annexes).
- Powerpoint presentation summarizing the contents of the report for internal MSI stakeholder
- Lead dissemination session with MSI to discuss the results and agree next steps
- Powerpoint presentation to support dissemination of findings to external stakeholders

CONSULTANTS PROFILE

The consultant must be pro-choice and able to respectfully navigate differing opinions and cultures.

Qualifications:

- Postgraduate degree in relevant area, or equivalent professional experience.

Experience:

- Knowledge of family planning, SRH and social norms theory
- Knowledge and experience working in SRH service delivery programmes
- Knowledge of Afghanistan: understanding of the situation for women and girls in Afghanistan, rural traditional societies in the country and the challenges in providing SRH services in the country
- Knowledge of humanitarian programming and experience working in a humanitarian setting
- Previous experience in conducting desk reviews and programme evaluations in humanitarian settings, preferably in the NGO sector

Skills:

- Ability to communicate clearly and sensitively in written and spoken English;
- Experience in communicating and working with a wide range of people, including people of culturally diverse backgrounds;
- Ability to summarise findings in creative, engaging ways.
- Knowledge of Dari/ Pashto and in-country presence an advantage

TIMING AND TERMS

Requested to start asap.

We are looking for this consultancy to start asap as funding for this work is currently due to end March 31st 2023.

Remuneration

It is expected that the consultancy will take no more than 40 days to complete. Consultants should provide a budget breakdown in their proposal.

Applications should include:

1. A proposed approach to tackle the TOR, including details of the consultant's proposed methodology, top-level workplan with timings and budget breakdown.
2. A capacity statement outlining the candidate's fit for the consultancy, in line with the profile described above.
3. An up-to-date CV.

MSI invites qualified consultants to submit applications by midnight (GMT) on Friday 2nd December.

Completed applications should be sent by email to Isabelle Sykes, Senior Technical Advisor, Asia, Isabelle.Sykes@msichoices.org. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.